



## *Preservation for Generations*

# **President's Report to the Annual General Meeting & 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner at Inter-Island Hotel 27<sup>th</sup> November 2003**

## **Introduction - Membership, Council and Staff**

In 1993 when the first governing Council of the Anguilla National Trust was appointed, these were the brave volunteers who have been documented as the first governing Council of the organisation.

### Roll Call of Council Members

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Mr. Colville Petty, O.B.E.    | First President  |
| 2. Mr. Timothy Hodge             | Vice-President & Past Treasurer  |
| 3. Mr. Kenn Banks, AAHS          | Former President & Vice President, who has the distinction of having served on the ANT Council for 10 years, the maximum number of years possible. |
| 4. Mr. Leroy Martinez            | Past Treasurer   |
| 5. Mrs. Daphne Jacobs-Richardson | Past Secretary   |
| 6. Mr. Nat Hodge, M.B.E.         |  |
| 7. Mrs. Aileen Smith, AAHS       |  |
| 8. Mr. Courtney Devonish         |  |
| 9. Mrs. Gloria Kelsick and       |  |
| 10. Mr. Clement Ghold            |  |

Since then, the following persons all served as members of our Council and some for More than one term either by appointment or by re-election at the Annual General Meeting.

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|----------------------------------|----------------|
| 11. Mr. Fitzroy (Johnno) Edwards |                |
| 12. Mr. Louvan Webster, AAHS     |                |
| 13. Mr. Joash Proctor, AAHS      |                |
| 14. Ms. Rhona Richardson         |                |
| 15. Ms. Irma Richardson          |                |
| 16. Ms. Bernice Lake, Q.C.       |                |
| 17. Mr. Griffin Webster          | Past Secretary |

From the inception right up to the time he left Anguilla to serve the sub-region, Justice Don Mitchell provided pro bono service to the Trust as its Legal Council. Following quite ably in his footsteps is Mrs. Josephine Gumbs-Connor.

The Present Council comprises:  
President, Ms. Avon Carty  
Vice President, Sir Emile Gumbs (AAHS)  
Secretary, Mr. Allan Morson  
Treasurer, Mr. James Harrigan  
Past Secretary, Pastor Philip Gumbs  
Past Treasurer, Mr. Rhon Connor  
Member, Mr. Thomas Peabody (AAHS)  
Member, Ms. Ingrid Fullington  
Member, Mr. Damien Hughes  
Member, Mr. Karle Connor

All of these individuals have given voluntary service to the nation as part of the governing body of our organisation and I'd like you to join me in giving them a robust round of applause.

Staff - With UK Government funding administered by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF UK), the Trust first opened its office in the museum building in The Valley in 1995 only to have them closed by Hurricane Luis. That funding also provided the Trust with a vehicle and with its first Director, Ms. Elizabeth Subin. In January 1996 two other members of staff were brought on board in the persons of Mrs. Ijahnya Christian who came on as Associate Executive Director and Mr. Karim Hodge as Administrative Assistant. When her contract ended, Ijahnya succeeded Liz Subin and Karim succeeded Ijahnya after completing studies that earned him a Master's degree in Conservation Biology. Mr. Hodge is currently the Environmental Officer in the Department of Physical Planning and works very closely with the Chief Minister's Office. During his period of study leave in the UK, Ms. Gina Brooks filled in for him and brought her artistic flair to many aspects of our organisation of special events.

At present the staff comprises only the Executive Director, Administrative Manager Karlyn Liburd and Ms. Marlene Richardson who makes sure that the office is kept clean. We have had an assurance that the level of government funding that was cut due to national budgetary constraints, will be restored in the new year to permit the Trust to fill the post of Research, Development and Education (RDE) Officer.

The Staff at the Trust has consistently gone beyond the call of duty, working weekends, nights, public holidays and in between to rise above all perceived capacity to get the job done. Our Executive Director has an impossible meeting schedule but continues to bring home the benefits both tangible and non-tangible. She has just ended a second two-year term of representing the Trust as an organisational board member of the Caribbean Conservation Association and has on several occasions been asked to represent the Government of Anguilla. The service given by our staff has really been remarkable especially in light of the absence of job security and the

level of benefits that the Trust would like to be able to offer. They too deserve a round of applause.

Membership - As far as the record of the President's Report to the AGM shows, in 1996 the membership of the Trust stood at 123 broken down as follows:

10 life members  
106 ordinary members  
3 society members  
2 corporate members and  
2 family members

At that time, President Petty wrote, *"If new members are to be attracted the Trust would need to put in place a public relations campaign to educate people further on its goals and objectives and to encourage them to be part of the national effort."*

Today, I challenge you to think of this as a goal requiring the effort of all members to share in and act on the vision of the Anguilla National Trust representing 1000 Members Strong. Today's membership figures of 15 Life Members, 85 Ordinary Members, 6 Society Members, 7 Business Members, 2 Corporate Sponsors and 26 Family Members, indicate that there is much more work to be done if that goal is to become a realistic one.

Community Support - I must express strongest thanks and appreciation for the tremendous support received over the years from the Government of Anguilla by way of an annual subvention that has suffered in recent years. We are especially grateful to all those persons, businesses, partnering agencies, public sector departments, cultural workers, artistes, communities, churches, media houses and countless volunteers who have contributed so richly to our work this last decade. We do not know all the names but we are aware of just how much your contribution helped us to survive the challenges of working with inadequate resources. On behalf of the entire body of the Anguilla National Trust, I take this opportunity to proffer profound thanks and gratitude. Without your support, we simply could not have survived. We indeed give thanks.

## **The Year in Review**

Our Cultural Preservation Mandate - The focus of the Trust's activities this year has been on using the opportunity created by the loss of our scientist to bring long needed focus on the cultural heritage preservation side of our mandate. In spite of serious urgings by the Executive Director, the Directors of the Fountain National Park Corporation did not succeed in submitting a proposed budget to the Government of Anguilla to facilitate some long-awaited action with regard to the proposed development of the Fountain Cavern National Park. Following the visit of Pat Malone who submitted a proposal for Museum Development, it was recommended that the budget be submitted as a starting point that would not be

affected by the fact that GOA has not yet acquired all the land for the development of the site. Though there will be challenges posed by further loss of staff, Council has considered a plan that would respond by focussing on the development of the Fountain Cavern as a single undertaking once this round of projects ends.

The Fort Hill Building - One important success this year was the vesting of a third property by the Government of Anguilla for administrative control by the Trust. The property in question is the old Fort Hill police station in Sandy Hill, from which one can enjoy one of the most spectacular views on the island. The acquisition of this property also forced us to take a hard look at the Anguilla National Trust's Ordinance, in order to decide whether we could enter into an agreement for the temporary establishment of an educational institution at the site, once it was discovered that the proposed institution was inextricably linked with another business also proposed for the site but which did not meet the legal requirements. The legal advice was to ask the interested persons to discontinue work begun without the knowledge and approval of the Trust. In a separate instance and again without the Trust's permission the grounds are being used to store rubble, materials and equipment by a contractor constructing a building just below the property. Every effort is being made to contact him to have the situation resolved. Our Legal Counsel has therefore been kept quite busy in recent months.

## **Civil Society and Self-Determination**

Perhaps on the basis of its attempts to facilitate the organisation of a national platform or entity for civil society as part of the UK GGF project, the Trust this year played an active role in co-ordinating the participation by civil society representatives in the meeting of the UN Committee of 24 in Anguilla at the end of May. That action was necessary because there was no existing body with a mandate to play that role and it was successful. Even though the civil society representatives had observer status only, the numbers were increased significantly from the few spaces originally indicated and government and civil society shared consensus on the issues at hand.

Further, and for the same reason, the Trust's letterhead was used to communicate with the Committee to arrange for an Anguillian representative to present Anguilla's case to the Committee in session in June. Dr. Phyllis Fleming-Banks attended the meeting at the UN's headquarters in New York to present the statement from civil society in Anguilla. The Trust's letterhead was again used more recently to convene a meeting intended to establish an entity that would focus on the proposed and continuous engagement with the UN Committee on the question of self-determination for Anguilla. That meeting was held in late November but no organised body has yet emerged.

While it is generally understood that good governance is a prerequisite for sustainable development, the Trust does not have the capacity at this time to

spearhead this initiative unless a member of its Council undertakes to play a leading role. The resources of the Trust can still support such initiatives but a false expectation should not be built regarding the Trust's role, which to date has been to seek to fill the existing gap. An important opportunity was lost when Anguilla failed to take the opportunity to make its case to the General Assembly at the appropriate time and again this was due to the absence of clearly identified leadership of the process. Such an instance should not be allowed to recur but the Trust's Council and membership need to make a decision about the Trust's role in this process in the future taking into consideration, limited capacity if the lead is to be restricted to office staff.

## **Current Projects**

Turtle Conservation in the Overseas Territories (TCOT) - The Trust continues to have a consultancy and supporting role in the delivery of objectives of the TCOT project i.e. Turtle Conservation in the Overseas Territories. However, most of the current activity associated with this project is being carried out by staff of the Department of Fisheries & Marine Resources and in particular by the Marine Biologist, Mr. James Gumbs.

Reptiles and Amphibians in Anguilla - This is latest Trust publication co-authored by former Associate Executive Director, Mr. Karim Hodge – had its origins in the Iguana Conservation programme and has inputs from Ellen Censky and Jim Powel now on sale for US \$15 to the general public and US \$10 to members.

East End Pond and Big Spring Heritage Site – CIDA funded through the OECS-ESDU The Government has requested an extension of timeframe for the development of the East End Pond site. Some important finishing touches are still needed at both sites and Mr. Roland Hodge, Principal Assistant Secretary in the Chief Minister's Office assisted by Mr. Karim Hodge are spearheading this last phase of work. With the diminished capacity caused by the loss of the Associate Executive Director and the conservation science that went with him, the Trust could no longer deliver its inputs to this project and withdrew from some aspects of it while continuing to work with the East End community in particular to prepare the Council for its management role and function. In that capacity, Audrey Rogers, President of the Council for the Conservation of East End Pond, & Kerriel Lewis of the Planning Department participated in a Barbados Workshop on Managing Sites and Attractions. Their expenses were met with support from the Caribbean Tourism Organisation.

Similarly, instead of staff this year, Ingrid Fullington and Jarmala Hodge (along with her brother Jamal Hodge) represented the Trust at the last Conference of the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds, which was held in Tobago. For the third time, the Royal Society provided support for this for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). The highly valued partnership with the RSPC continues with the Eco-Tourism Project.

Eco-Tourism Project - This project was funded by the UK Government and is being implemented in partnership with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), which is providing technical assistance. The project, which was piloted in January 2003 and officially launched in September 2003, is designed to establish the ANT Heritage Bus Tour as a means of generating revenue over time by participating in tourism diversification through the sustainable use of natural and cultural resources in the eastern end of the island. The main activity of the project at present is the training of tour guides and the production of marketing material. RSPB staff member Steve Holliday who assisted with pilot phase, returns this December to support project activity and to be present for the tour that will test the skills of the newly trained tour guides, who will be certified on the basis of the attainment of established proficiencies.

Anguilla Flora Project – UK funded last year to utilise the data bases created from the voluntary work done by amateur botanist Mary Walker for another major Trust publication. With recent staff changes, responsibility for the compilation for this publication needs to be determined.

## **Public Education & Awareness**

Over the years of the Trust's existence, we have benefited from the strong support of all media houses in Anguilla. Magazines such as Anguilla Life and What We Do In Anguilla have consistently featured articles about our work and have contributed to our marketing efforts. Our newsletter, TRUST NEWS is now being sent to members on a Quarterly basis and engagements with schools and civil society organisations are still sporadic and associated with projects being implemented. The "Breath of Fresh Air" video and education pack, which to which our Executive Director contributed substantially, has been distributed to schools and other organisations throughout the UKOT's, Gibraltar and Bermuda. Regional and international linkages established through membership and representation, have resulted in a wealth of other audio-visual material including a variety of posters, flyers, leaflets, banners, campaign and public relations material. As the Trust seeks to contribute to the diversification of the tourism sector, the public awareness programme today has a new focus on marketing.

## **INSERT ADDENDUM ON INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT FOR CIVIL SOCIETY – CO-ORDINATION OF ENGAGEMENT WITH UN COMMITTEE OF 24**

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Ijanya Christian  
Executive Director

11<sup>th</sup> December 2003

**A Decade of Achievements and Challenges**

► External Grant Funding – Largely through the efforts of our Executive Directors, apart from the start-up funding and projects completed prior to the commissioning of the Trust’s Office in 1996, grant funding has totalled approximately EC\$2,324,659.44

► Sustainable Development challenges that required the mobilisation of external national, regional and international resources:

- Royal Caribbean Cruise Line and Prickly Pear
- Beal application for Sombrero
- Public awareness regarding questionable development at Maunday's Bay
- Extension of Sea Turtle Moratorium
- Funding the development of the Fountain Cavern

▶ Unsustainable level of staff turnover

## ▶ **1997 Strategic Model**

1997 was a landmark year when the Trust employed a consultant to engage in a process from which our first Strategic Model emerged. Out of this process Council and Staff developed Mission and Vision Statements as well a number of Strategic Functions and Objectives to provide policy guidelines for our work.

## ▶ **Information & Documentation Resources**

Electronic resources that are made accessible for research purposes include networks, egroups, efiles and data bases on: civil society organisations in Anguilla regional and international organisations, plants, water, biodiversity, Invasive species, sustainable tourism, world heritage with links to ICOMOS and CARIMOS

Hard documentation on the following topic is available for short-term loan.

- Anguillian history and culture
- Sustainable development
- Environmental education
- Flora and fauna of the Caribbean region
- Environmental Education
- Various reports on Anguilla's Natural Resources

These lists are by no means exhaustible.

The Trust also continues to have membership with the Caribbean Conservation, Association, the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds, E-membership in the Wider Caribbean Group and Associate membership of the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum. We will resume our membership with the Museums Association of the Caribbean when we establish a National Museum.

## ▶ **Education, Training & Representation for Capacity Building**

Following is an indication of how the Trust has facilitated capacity-building for its staff, council and others to engage in capacity building at the national level in those areas of work prescribed by our mandate or as needed to facilitate decision-making for sustainable development.

### Sustainable Tourism

Ijahnya Christian currently co-ordinating the Tour Guide Training Course for the Trust's Eco-Tourism project.

John Lloyd - Training in Jamaica and Dominica

IC - Managing Heritage Sites & Attractions, St. Kitts

KH - Workshops in Tour Guide and Eco-Tour Operators Training, T & T

IC - Workshop on Revenue Generation for Parks & Protected Areas, JcA

### Natural Resource Conservation

IC - Co-ordinated and facilitated workshops in Protected Area Management for members of the Council for the Conservation of East End Pond and the Big Spring Action Council with support from CANARI  
- Participatory Approaches to Natural Resource Management, CANARI, Antigua & Tobago  
- Environmental Leadership, Smithsonian Institution, USA

GOA - Multi-Lateral Environmental Agreements and the Economic Value of Biodiversity Conservation (Darwin Project consultants)  
- At least two members of staff in the Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources have benefited from participation in conference and training encounters as a result of the Trust being Anguilla's focal point in the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network (WIDECAST)

KH - M. Sc. in Conservation Biology (U.K.)  
- Endangered Species Management  
- Sea Turtle Conservation (Antigua & Trinidad & Tobago)  
- Iguana Conservation  
- Sewage Management

Rhon - Workshop on Sea Turtles and the SPAW Protocol, D.R.

Gina Brooks - Watershed Management, St. Lucia  
- Environmental Impact Assessments

Lloyd Gumbs & Rolston Hennis - Business Member Cap Juluca Hotel, Botanical Gardens Mangt. - Cultivation and Propagation of Threatened Plant Species, U.K.

All members of staff over the years would have been exposed to training in various aspects of coastal resources management. Funding provided by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has enabled us to participate in 3 meetings of the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds. Year 1. IC in Dominican Republic Year 2. IC and KH in Cuba.

### Cultural Heritage Preservation

IC and Colville Petty, O.B.E. - UNESCO Workshop on Illicit Traffic in Cultural Property (St. Kitts)

Daphne Jacobs-Richardson - Folk Music Revival (Nevis)

Gina Brooks - Museum Development (UK)

IC - Eco-Tourism Conference and Inscription of Morne Trois Piton National Park as a World Heritage Site, Dominica

Griffin Webster - UNESCO Workshop on the World Heritage Convention (Dominica)

### Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening

Ijahnya Christian, Timothy Hodge, Avon Carty and Griffin Webster have represented the Trust for 4 years on the Board of Directors of the Caribbean Conservation Association. ANT rotated off the Board just last week after serving for two terms of two-year duration. Our Executive Director has also been asked by the Government to be its representative for meetings of the SPAW Protocol of the Cartagena Convention.

IC - UKOT Conservation Forum/FCO – Gibraltar meeting to review state of environment in UKOTs  
- Marine Biodiversity, SPAW Protocol and Cartagena, Preservation of Sandy Beaches in the Caribbean Region (UNEP CEP), Jamaica  
- COP5, Convention on Biological Diversity, Kenya  
- Strategic Thinking and Management  
- Management of Change

Avon Carty	“Breath of Fresh Air” – FCO Conference on environmental chapter of White Paper on Partnership for Progress and Prosperity, UK and “A Sense of Direction” UKOT Conference in Bermuda
IC & KH	Understanding and Implementing CITES, Cayman Islands & Anguilla
Reps. of ANYC Course, T & T	- NGO Management, CARIPEDA Development Workers Karim Hodge, Sandra York-Gumbs, Ricky Roupine, Vanessa John & others
Rhona Richardson	- Wilton Park Conference, UK
Corvette Richardson William Vanterpool &	Teacher and staff of Department of Agriculture Rudolph Gumbs- Workshop in Organic Farming, CNIRD, St. Vincent

Judith Anne Sadler-Bryan – Environmental Journalism, OECS-NRMU, St. Vincent

In and With the Formal Sector

- Field Trip Manual - at draft stage
- Wetlands Education - Primary and Secondary
- Human Rights in the Curriculum - Secondary
- Conservation in the Curriculum - Primary
- Producing Materials for Environmental Education - “Iggy Iguana”, Primary
- Schoolyard Ecology (Teacher Gloria Omololu Institute - Primary

**A CLEAR MANDATE FOR MEMBERSHIP ACTION**

The following quotation has been taken from the President’s Report to the second AGM of the Trust held in 1995.

“Another project on which much emphasis is being placed is the National Museum and every effort is being made for its completion and commissioning next year. The

Trust is presently exploring the possibility of getting some technical assistance as regards the layout and lighting of the exhibits. Other projects being considered as worthy of preservation include the Old Court House at Crocus Hill, the sugar works at Benzies, the sugar works near St. Augustine's Church at East End, the Cavannagh Cave and the sugar works at the Hughes Estate at Lower South Hill."

Not one of these projects have even begun but after far too many hiccups, our partner organisation the Anguilla Archaeological and Historical Society has taken the bold step of establishing a new legal entity to develop the national museum at the Crocus Hill site and everyone's financial and other forms of support are being solicited for this major venture.

Just as we thought the Trust had successfully battled the notion that it exists to take away people's land, recent allegations have shown that this is not entirely so. We still invite major landowners to become active members and to use the resources of the Trust in support of conservation and preservation initiatives on their land.

While membership involvement continues to be low, volunteers engaged in projects intended to be co-managed at the community level are a source of motivation and inspiration. They are in fact, as all of you are, stakeholders in Anguilla's development. The Council for the Conservation of East End Pond stands out in this regard. Members should now be challenged to match or to join community action if not to lead it. It is no point rushing into the Trust's office only when a problem has personal or direct impact on you to be blackmailed into membership by our Director who has confessed to doing this on at least one occasion. This does not make for sustainable development either. It is your proactive and affirmative action, far more so than your reaction that will renew our mandate and that can and must make a difference to how the chapter of our next decade of development will be written. Thank you.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Avon Carty  
President

Date: \_\_\_\_\_